The Lions' Pride

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Justice for the Farm Workers

By Danielle Meikle
Staff Writer

With the very advanced and mechanized world that currently exists, it is easy to overlook the effort required to keep it functioning smoothly. Therefore, organizations like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) set out to raise awareness of and to minimize the struggles faced by farm workers, an important but undermined group in our society. As a part of their current outreach, the CIW visited the University on Mar. 1 to present on the Immokalee tomato pickers and the Fair Food Program.

The CIW represents tomato pickers in Immokalee, a farm nearby Ft. Myers. This organization was formed out of the need for better working conditions and pay for the workers. Before now, workers were paid a small wage based on the number of buckets they filled with tomatoes. This became more difficult and negatively affected their livelihoods during the off-season when the tomato plants were no longer laden with fruit. This, coupled with long hours, use of carcinogenic fertilizers, the cruelty of crew leaders, and sexual harassment, proved to be a story of modern-day slavery.

This sparked the workers to bargain with the growers who were responsible for the farms. They asked for increased wages and better conditions but were met with rejection as the growers claimed to be doing the best that they could with the challenges they faced from the buyers. As such, the CIW targeted the buyers next with the first being Taco Bell, which was a huge buyer of Florida tomatoes. However, even higher in the hierarchy was consumers, and they are the new target. In 2001, a new consumer-powered Campaign for Fair Food was launched with the aim of educating consumers on the labor conditions behind the food they eat.

Through the campaign, farm workers have rallied consumers to encourage retail food companies to use their purchasing power to enforce higher labor standards for farm workers. Over the next decade this newfound alliance got a dozen companies, including Walmart and Burger King, to sign the Fair Food Agreement. In 2015, the Program even expanded beyond Florida tomato pickers to include seven states and three crops. The agreement asks corporations to pay a small premium, which is given to the workers as a bonus. They also ask that companies only purchase from growers who adhere to the Fair Food Code of Conduct. Under the code, growers must ensure that there is:

- Zero tolerance for forced labor
- No verbal or physical abuse, or sexual harassment
- Safe working conditions
- Shade, clean restrooms, and drinking water
- The right to report abuse without fear of retaliation
- A fair wage

The event was well received by all who attended. Students were especially intrigued by the activity that demonstrated what it is like to carry 32 lb. bushel baskets of tomatoes all day long from the fields to the trucks.

Derek McIntosh, a sophomore accounting major, said, "This was a very interesting presentation that really opened my eyes to how disconnected consumers are from how the food we eat is acquired. This is an amazing cause that garners my support!"

Despite this progress, the struggle continues with companies like Wendy's which refuse to join on. The Return to Human Rights Tour is a new and initiative way to target this problem, and the CIW encourages all to join their boycott of Wendy's. More information is available on their website.

Photo by Danielle Meikle

All in attendance were encouraged to test their strength by lifting the 32lb bucket that demonstrated what it was like for farm workers carrying tomatoes in the field.

Photo by Danielle Meikle

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is a farm worker-led human rights organization that aims to protect the human rights of farm workers nationwide.

Editorial

What Makes a Delay Okay?

By Jordan Cardenas
Contributing Writer

Anyone who has worked on a project—from a work of art, to writing a story or a program, or filming and editing a movie—knows the frustrations of trying to build and perfect their vision, and any college student knows the stress experienced from deadlines. But at the same time, as a consumer of a variety of art mediums, such as movies, books, video games, and other forms of entertainment, it's easy to get frustrated or even angry when there is a delay for a release date. Many can assume that these delays will guarantee a better product, but when are such delays justified and when are they simply unacceptable?

Most delays tend to range around a few months, but some can be as short as a few days or as long as several years. Sometimes they happen because of a mistake in production. Other reasons include the project simply being behind schedule or requiring more resources than the people working on it initially anticipated. For some fans, delays are worth the wait, but for others, it is simply maddening.

Some of these projects spanning years apart include comic series like "Captain America: White," with its first volume releasing in Sep. 2008 and its second volume not releasing until Nov. 2015. According to Gizmodo, there was a mysterious seven-year gap until the series finally began to release sequential volumes on a regular schedule.

Additionally, one of the most infamous video game delays involves the game "Duke Nukem Forever." According to VentureBeat, it was announced in Apr. 1997 but was not released worldwide until Jun. 10, 2011. The game suffered several delays until its original development team went bankrupt. The game was passed to multiple teams until it was finally released over a decade later, only to receive harsh criticism.

Other recent games have fallen under similar circumstances, with the crowdfunded "Mighty No. 9" being delayed three times from spring 2015 to summer 2016 as reported by its developer, Comcept. The game was universally panned at release. Its handheld versions on Nintendo 3DS and PlayStation Vita remain unreleased, likely due to the game's harsh criticism. "The Last Guardian" was another highly anticipated game announced in 2009 to be released in 2011 for the PlayStation 3, only to disappear for several years due to technical issues. It finally released in Dec. 2016 for PlayStation 4, but received only lukewarm reception after years of development.

So, do all delays inevitably release bad or mediocre products despite their endeavors of realizing a perfect vision? And do they all suffer downright ridiculous wait times? Not necessarily.

Despite the frustration of waiting, many of the most famous works of art have been brought into the forms we know them as today because of their delays. According to ShortList, James Cameron's "Titanic" was delayed from Jul. 2, 1997 to Dec. 14, 1997 due to complications with the staff and being unable to finish the special effects in time. But today, it's known as one of the world's highest grossing films of all time.

Even one of the Harry Potter film adaptations, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" was delayed by more than half a year from Nov. 21, 2008 to Jul. 15, 2009, according to *The Guardian*. However, it still received great positive reception despite the backlash from fans for the delay.

Nintendo's "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" was also delayed numerous times, having begun development around 1995 aiming for a 1997 release. According to Kotaku, it was delayed until Nov. 23, 1998 in America. The game has since been critically acclaimed and proclaimed by many as one of the best video games of all time. This is still said today with its numerous perfect scores it has been given and the game has also been appraised for many of the revolutions that it brought to the industry.

Even today, one of the game's successors, "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" deals with a similar fate as it has received numerous delays since its first slated release schedule of 2015. Although, according to Kotaku, it has only recently received a final date of Mar. 3, 2017. Whether it will succeed as well as its past predecessor, however, is a question that currently remains unanswered.

There are many examples of multimedia projects that still do not meet expectations despite their delays. Sometimes, projects even suffer delays that feel unacceptable for many, even lasting years. But there also still lies many great works of art that suffer delays, but ultimately become known as some of the best of their kind. Whether or not a delay is worth the wait is subjective, but the quality of a good still remains with it years down the line.

"A delayed game is eventually good, but a rushed game is bad forever," stated creator of "Super Mario Bros" and "The Legend of Zelda" franchises, Shigeru Miyamoto. Miyamoto is fondly remembered for this quote he made in regards to the delay of "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time," and it has echoed throughout the gaming industry for years.

While the case for delayed products may not always be true, rushed mediums have a consistent history of ranging from mediocre to disastrous. An example of this is the infamous game "Sonic the Hedgehog" that was quickly "finished" for the 2006 holiday season.

Despite the fact that delays may be frustrating and may not always guarantee greatness, perhaps delays are for the best in order to avoid rushed works. The hope is that they may have a greater chance of bringing the world and its consumers new masterpieces to look back on years later.

Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

All Tied Up!

Photo by Kadyann Stupart

On Mar. 3, students gathered on the Green to create some fashionable art and engage in some unique and friendly competition at the tie-dye and Zorb racing event. To see some of the colorful creations and find out just what in the world Zorb racing is, check out the story online.

Detection for Autism

Photo from @Edgemere_BCPS

Researchers recently found out a way to detect autism in infants. To find out the method used to detect autism and the data that researchers collected, read the article online.

SLU Track with New Records

Photo from @saintleoxctrack

On Mar. 3, the Men's and Women's Track teams had record-setting races at the University of Tampa's Classic. Individuals of the teams were able to set new records; to learn about those records, head online.

Newsroom

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Letters To The Editor

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- Faculty: Include name and rank
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Campus News

Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders

By Lucy McManus
Contributing Writer

It's fair to say that Saint Leo boasts a huge variety of talent amongst their students. One 21-year-old, Mindy Vitale, is one of those students, taking the world of tourism and hospitality by storm. The junior hails from Punta Gorda, Fla. and is interested in pursuing a career in the hospitality industry.

Vitale is also the 2016-2017 Southern Regional Chair of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality [NSMH], which held their national conference at the end of February. In her role, Vitale oversees 12 chapters, including Tennessee and Texas, organizing and hosting conference calls on a weekly basis.

NSMH is a premier professional organization for hospitality students throughout the U.S. It was founded at Cornell University in 1989 by four leaders and has since grown to over one thousand students from across the country that continue to set the way for future leaders of the industry.

NSMH addresses diversity and multiculturalism, as well as the career development of its student members. They believe that these lessons are important to the future leaders of this industry and that anyone of any ethnicity, gender, or other demographic group can value. Their motto is "Today's students, tomorrow's leaders." As soon as Vitale began Saint Leo as a freshman, NSMH caught her eye in the list of clubs and organizations.

"I remember seeing NSMH on the list of clubs, and as a tourism and hospitality major I was naturally attracted to join," Vitale said. "Even though I wasn't a minority, I wanted to promote diversity in the industry."

She went on to say that "The president at the time, Michelle, had a huge impact on me and through Saint Leo, I was given the opportunity to be the event coordinator for NSMH, and plan hospitality week and an Industry plan with five hospitality professionals."

Since Freshman year, Vitale has moved from strength to strength, eventually being nominated for a national board position with the organization.

"I received a call from my advisor at Saint Leo. She encouraged me to represent Saint Leo by applying for the position of Southern Regional Chair, and I thought it would be an incredible opportunity and a chance for me to gain valuable experience. I made a speech last year at the conference in Washington D.C. and I was elected. Since then I've never looked back!"

The former president of NSMH was a big inspiration to Vitale, just as she hopes to be for incoming generations of hospitality majors at Saint Leo.

Photo by Lucy McManus

Mindy Vitale delivered a rousing speech to over 700 attendees at NSMH's national conference this year.

Photo by Lucy McManus

Her term started Jul. 1, 2016 and will end on Jun. 30 of this year. Vitale will be the first Saint Leo representative to be on the national NSMH board.

Vitale traveled to the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront to help host the national conference at the end of Feb. She was a member of the team who organized the event, beginning preparations since June of last year. The theme of the conference was "Planting seeds for Growth."

The conference offered a range of workshops held by professionals in the field from top organizations, such as Hyatt Regency, Hilton, Four Seasons, and MGM Grand. A career fair was also held to give attendees a chance to network with recruiters and seek out potential internships or jobs. The conference had several social events in the evening, including a Gala event with the theme "The Great Gatsby."

Vitale delivered a speech to over 700 attendees and 50 top hospitality recruiters, which was a highlight for her. Reflecting on her experience, Vitale said:

"I have gained excellent experience with NSMH, being able to connect and network with professionals in the hospitality industry and retain those relationships, and I would like to encourage Saint Leo students to continue to represent the university within a professional organization."

"It's a great learning process, I have met so many people and found a great support system, so I would highly encourage those interested to go out for the opportunity," she said. "NSMH has not only enhanced my career opportunities, but it's also helped me to gain confidence, leadership skills, public speaking skills which have helped my overall personal development. NSMH has been an amazing opportunity for me, and it will always hold a special place in my heart."

Her talent doesn't end there. Vitale is also the President of the International Tourism Club on the campus and was a key figure in planning the successful "Beer and Bratz" tasting seminar last semester.

If students are interested in finding out more about NSMH or would like to get involved, they can view the website at www.nsmh.org, or search for 'NSMH Headquarters' on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. NSMH meets on Tuesdays at 5 pm in SOB 334, and ITC meets Tuesdays at 5 pm in SOB 334.

National

Six Awards in Four Months for Saint Leo

By Kadyann Stupart
Contributing Writer

The Lions' Pride is running articles for the month of Mar. in honor of Military Caregiver Month. This is the second article in a series to be published for this month.

Due to its outstanding dedication towards military students, Saint Leo University has been the recipient of numerous awards in the span of four months.

William J. Lennox Jr., retired U.S. Army lieutenant general and Saint Leo University President, has commented in a press release.

"Each year more than 5,000 veterans attend classes at Saint Leo, while nearly 4,500 active-duty military members are enrolled around the world, and this commitment to military men and women is an aspect of the Saint Leo University of which I am particularly proud," said Lennox in a press release.

The most recent of these sextuple achievements is the fifth rank in the nation for the 2017 Military Spouse Friendly School® designated by Victory Media. In light of March being Military Caregiver Month, the timely award is indicative of Saint Leo's commitment to supporting military spouses who are juggling the demands of family, military life, work and going back to school.

"Saint Leo University is humbled to be recognized for not only educating those who have served and continued to serve our country but also for providing educational opportunities for their spouses and other family members," stated Pamela Martis, retired U.S. Army colonel and director of SLU's Office of Military Affairs and Services, in a press release.

Victory Media also presented Saint Leo University with its second award, that being the third rank in the nation for the Top10 Gold-level Military Friendly® School Award. When asked why Saint Leo was a recipient of the award in a press release, Martis stated, "It is so important to help those who have served our country transition into civilian life. We can advocate for military students, military family members, and student-veterans throughout the university— at all of the centers and teaching locations, as well as our Center for Online Learning. The support from the staff and faculty to support the military and student-veteran is phenomenal."

The third award that Saint Leo has earned recognition for, the fourth consecutive year, is the Military Advanced Education & Transition's Top School in Military & Veteran Education. This award illustrates that Saint Leo is a leader in the nation in the provision of education to veterans and active military students in the armed forces. The university shows its commitment to educating military personnel, veterans and their families by teaching at several military bases in Virginia, California, Texas, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Naval Station Norfolk, which is one of the largest naval bases in the world.

Saint Leo's fourth award is its eighth ranking in the country as one of the Best for Vets: Colleges 2017 by Military Times. The Best for Vets: Colleges survey asked more than five hundred colleges and universities to document services, special rules, accommodations, and financial incentives offered to students with military ties, as well as to describe many aspects of veteran culture on campus.

Photo from @ArgosyU

Colonel Martis states that the veterans program here at Saint Leo offers flexible programs for student veterans and military affiliated students so they can tailor their program of study as they transition in school.

"We limit our list to encourage competition, and we genuinely hope this helps raise the bar for veterans on campus," said Amanda Miller, editor of Best for Vets, in a press release.

Martis also commented on how Saint Leo is able to accommodate not only student veterans but also military-affiliated students.

"We focus on looking at the needs of our military affiliated students [and student veterans] who attend Saint Leo and we strive to make sure that we assist them in the areas they need, to transition from the military as they look towards continuing their higher education and pursuing a career after their military service," said Martis.

Lastly, the institution's fifth and sixth awards come from their recognition in the U.S. News & World 2017 Report. Saint Leo was named Best Online program for bachelor's degrees, ranked fifty-ninth, and the Best Online program for Veteran's list, ranked thirty-seventh. The University has been offering online programs since 1998 through its Center for Online Learning.

"Saint Leo University is very proud to have its online bachelor's and veteran's programs recognized in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Online Programs rankings again this year," Melanie Storms, vice president of Saint Leo WorldWide, said in a press release. "With the recent creation of our new WorldWide division, online and distance education are a renewed area of focus for Saint Leo. We remain committed to providing quality, values-based education that offers maximum flexibility, meeting our students at their point of need."

Saint Leo University has undoubtedly out-done itself through accomplishing these awards in such a short time period.

Check online during spring break for the next part of the series devoted to Military Caregiver's Month and the Military.

Photo from @UCOBronchos

According to the publications' editor, The Best for Vets survey evaluated institutions in several categories with university culture and academic outcomes bearing the most weight.

Photo from @MDGFlorida

"Military spouses are expert problem-solvers. They thrive under pressure, and are highly educated and mobile," said Daniel Nichols, chief product officer at Victory Media's Military Friendly® division.

Photo from @tasbcolleges

"The Military Friendly® award recipients set the standard for excellence," said Daniel Nichols, chief product officer of Victory Media and head of Military Friendly® development.

National

The Inconsistencies of the United States Justice System

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

Recently, in a study of prosecutorial decision making by the Vera Institute of Justice, prosecutors are using their prosecutorial discretion inconsistently when prosecuting similar cases. In the 28 page report, the researchers go into detail about factors that have an impact on the judicature and how there are "considerable variation" in how individual prosecutors handled comparable cases.

The researchers have analyzed two county jurisdictions and looked at the legal impact of charging decisions, plea offers, sentence recommendations, and post-filing dismissal. The research found that the lack of financial resources, internal policies, or relationships to people within the legal justice system can contribute to prosecutorial inconsistency.

"These constraints—rules, resources, and relationships—could trump evaluations of strength of the evidence, seriousness of the offense, and defendant criminal history, forcing prosecutors to make decisions that they might not consider ideal," said a researcher from the Vera Institute in the report.

"As a retired police officer I've dealt with the U.S. Justice system and I've seen a lot of things that have gone wrong over the years. Anytime you have the "human factor" involved you have bias, prejudice, hate, deceit, politics and power—and all of this seems to be influenced by the [almighty] dollar," said Debra Mims, who is an assistant professor in criminal justice. "Basically, the U.S. justice system is directly associated with one's ability to pay or not to pay, as the scales of justice are weighted by the amount of money placed upon them by the defense."

These injustices have received more attention in recent years, since human rights activists started sharing cases that seem unjust all over social media. One example of that is the case of the Stanford University swimmer, Brock Turner, who was convicted on three felony sexual assault charges for raping an unconscious woman. He was sentenced to a six-month jail sentence in early June, with the possibility of release after three months. The prosecution had recommended six years in prison out of a possible fourteen, reported Quartz magazine.

A very similar case took place in Pennsylvania, where a 20-year old former West Chester University student got sentenced to six years in prison after he was convicted of raping an unconscious female student in her dorm room, reported the LA Times. The student, Kyle Vo, is an Asian-American, who was a Freshman at 19 years of age at the time.

Cases such as these show the inconsistencies in the justice system. The injustice of the Brock Turner case has even led to a petition that had been signed by over 100,000 people with the goal to fire the trial judge, Aaron Persky, who is a Stanford University alumni. Persky expressed concern, as shown in Quartz magazine, that a longer sentence might have a "severe impact" on the defendant. Upset about the sentence that seemed unjust, a Stanford law school professor started a campaign to recall the sentence.

Referring to the Brock Turner cases and the judge's sentencing, Criminal Justice professor Joseph Cillo, who is also a former lawyer, said, "It was within the sentencing guidelines; judges have extreme discretion at the state level; [the judge] committed no judicial misfeasance or malfeasance."

Cillo further commented on the sentencing of case being six months and whether it was appropriate or not without reviewing the absolute facts and testimonies.

Photo from @ mercnews

There are many people who want to remove Perky as a judge for the light sentencing of Brock Turner, including a Stanford law school professor, Michele Dauber (seen at a pep rally in 2016). However, according to CNN, The Commission on Judicial Performance, a independent agency, was cleared from allegations of misconduct.

"There was no judicial misfeasance or wrong doing on part of the judge," said Cillo. "Not everyone likes every verdict; there are going to be somebody who does and somebody who doesn't; that's the nature of our system."

The sentencing in the case of Turner seemed unjust to many and led to an open argument about the sentencing power that lies in the hand of a judge in this judicial system.

"There are five, maybe six, things that influence each and every judge when they write a decision or come to a verdict: the law, ethics, morals, society, economics, their re-electablity, if they're state judges - federal judges, their term is for life - and the last things is what they had for breakfast, which mean their personal life: what's going with them; are they having a good day; are they having a bad day," said Cillo. "All these things influence a person beyond what you understand; it causes them to be distracted … emotionally, mentally [and] intellectually."

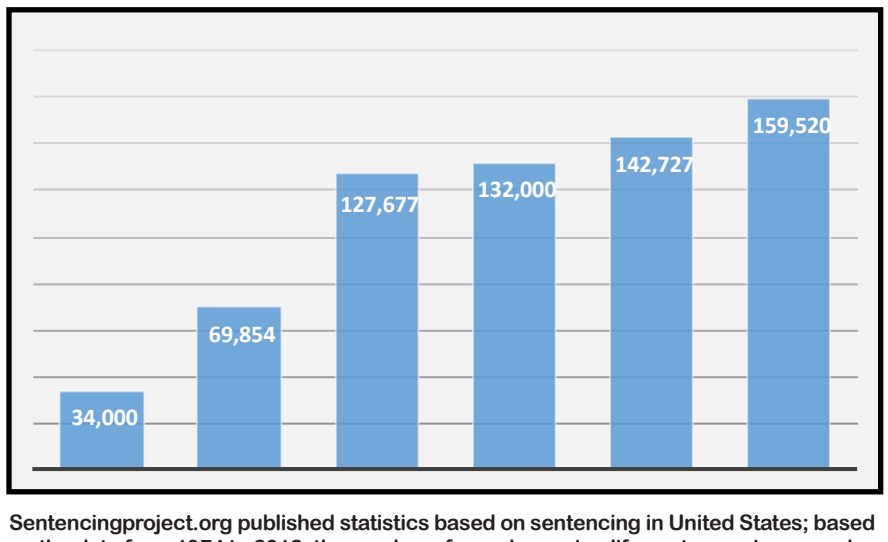
There has even been a petition to initiate minimum sentences for heavy crimes like murder or rape, stated Quartz Magazine.

In the United States, sentencing varies by jurisdiction and state while it must conform with the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law. However, the Constitution only sets basic mandates, which leaves most of the policies up to each state. Many states have mandatory sentencing laws that remove discretion from the judge. These laws set minimum incarceration times for serious crimes or individuals with serious criminal records. However, the state has the discretion to pursue or waive the mandatory sentencing.

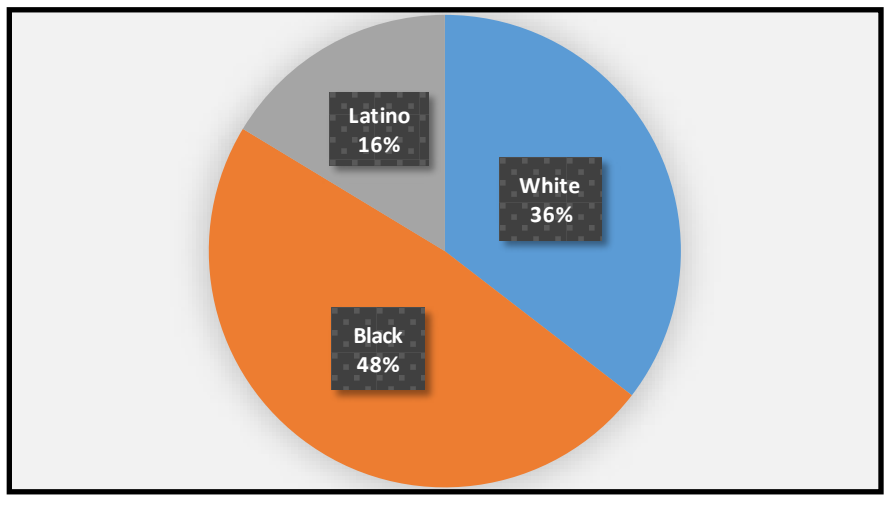
"I would change the Federal mandatory sentencing guide lines to allow judges to use their common sense when deciding on a downward departure from those guidelines," said Cillo.

In the end, it comes down to the ability of the U.S. justice system under the constitution. The justice system has been created with the goal to find a fair and adequate sentence for people that have been convicted of a crime. The law constitution and state laws give a guideline for the seriousness of the sentence, but the judge still has the final word. Even though the study was created a few years ago, these two cases show that it is still relevant.

People Serving Life Sentences



Sentencingproject.org published statistics based on sentencing in United States; based on the data from 1974 to 2012, the number of people serving life sentences increased drastically.



According to data from sentencingproject.org in 2012, more African Americans is the number one race serving life sentences in America at 48 percent, with whites at 38 percent; however, this does not take into account that African Americans only make up about 13 percent of American population whereas whites make up about 69 percent.

Arts & Entertainment

A Fond Farewell to Wolverine

By Stephen Skipper
Contributing Writer

After 17 years, Hugh Jackman has sheathed his claws and put out his cigar. Fox's latest X-Men movie, "Logan," released on Mar. 3 and was Jackman's final performance as the no-nonsense mutant, Wolverine.

In the year 2029, Logan is among the last of the dying breed of mutants, with none having been born in two decades. He is lying low as a limo driver while also caring for the ailing telepath, Professor Charles Xavier, played by Patrick Stewart, another longtime X-Men favorite. His quiet life is interrupted by the arrival of the mysterious young girl Laura (Dafnee Keen) who has an interesting connection with Logan. Together, the trio of Logan, Xavier, and Laura must cross the country while evading the sinister corporation, Transigen, and their ruthless thugs.

While it is painful to say goodbye to Jackman in his most well-known and recognized role, he still gave it his best. Wolverine is still the same edgy fighter he has always been. The movie itself is rated R, giving the movie and the Wolverine character the grittiness it has long deserved, letting Jackman go out on a bang rather than a whimper.

Unlike previous entries in the X-Men franchise, which has had some action to it but still restricted by ratings, "Logan" holds nothing back, whether it be language or action, even the elderly Stewart manages to get his voice heard. This movie also acts as a nod to all fans of the series, referencing past movies and smaller Easter eggs for the more eagle-eyed viewers.

"Logan" is no ordinary superhero movie, though. Instead of faced paced action and battling alien invaders or any trope, director James Mangold takes it with a darker approach. Wolverine is not in the prime of his life in any way. He limps around most of the time, his body is significantly weaker to abuse, and he even needs reading glasses from time to time.

Past X-Men movies have had epic battles across entire islands, but "Logan" is all about one goal: running from those chasing the heroes. The plot may deter some from enjoying this movie, but that should not be in the way of what is arguably Jackman's most serious adaptation of the Wolverine role.

Jackman also has bounced back from his latest two solo Wolverine movies of "X-Men Origins" and "The Wolverine," both of which have been considered flops by fans and critics alike. "Logan" currently holds a 93% on the review site Rotten Tomatoes, giving the movie a fresh rating, being enjoyed worldwide. The opening weekend saw a draw of $85.3 million in domestic box offices, a slashing success.

Granted, with this success, fans will be wanting the saga of the Wolverine to continue, so the big question to be asked is who will be the next actor to wear the claws? Overall, "Logan" was the missing link a solo Wolverine movie needed to be for so long, and viewers were finally granted that.

Upcoming Events

Renaissance Festival
Date:
2/6 - 3/20 @ 10 AM - 6 PM
Location:
11315 N 46th St., Tampa, FL 33617
Contact:
813-983-0111
Price:
$12.95 - $20.95
Description:
Visitors can travel back to the 16th century and experience live entertainment including jousting, artisans selling their wares, games, and food and drink fit for a king.

Florida Strawberry Festival
Date:
3/2 - 3/12 @ 10 AM - 10 PM
Location:
303 N Lemon St., Plant City, FL. 33563
Contact:
813 - 752 - 9194
Price:
$5 - $10 (regular admission price)
Description:
The festival features a venue for flea market-style craft and freshly harvested strawberry item sales, various free entertainment acts, "big name" concert performances (separate ticket purchase necessary), a parade, livestock activities, a beauty pageant, exhibits, and family fun.

Photo By @WolverineMovie

"Logan" takes a grittier approach compared to no others seen before in the X-Men franchise.

Arts & Entertainment

A Game to Go Berserk For

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Photo By @wccftechdotcom

In "Berserk: Band of the Hawk," players get to rip armies of enemies to shreds with the giant sword, Dragonslayer.

In the dark medieval fantasy genre of anima and manga, there is one series that has always stayed as a favorite of many. "Berserk," created by Kentaro Miura, is an incredibly epic and hellishly gore-filled story of the ventures of the protagonist, Guts, a lone, cursed mercenary. The series has spawned countless volumes of manga, a popular late 90's anime series, a film trilogy, a recent continuation of the 90's anime, and a few mediocre video games. A new addition to the Berserk games has become available for PlayStation 4, PlayStation Vita, and PC. "Berserk: Band of the Hawk," developed by Omega Force and produced by Koei Tecmo, gives fans of the series a proper game that puts the player into the body of Guts and his incredible power.

The story in the game coincides with the story of the manga going from the beginning "Golden Age Arc" all the way up to the "Hawk of the Millennium Empire Arc." The story tells of how the young Guts became part of the Band of the Hawk and how he soon became marked with the cursed power to see and hear demons that have been sent to hunt him in the night. Carrying the giant and impenetrable sword, Dragonslayer, and having a few other weaponry tricks up his sleeve, Guts sets out to find the one who cursed him and get his revenge.

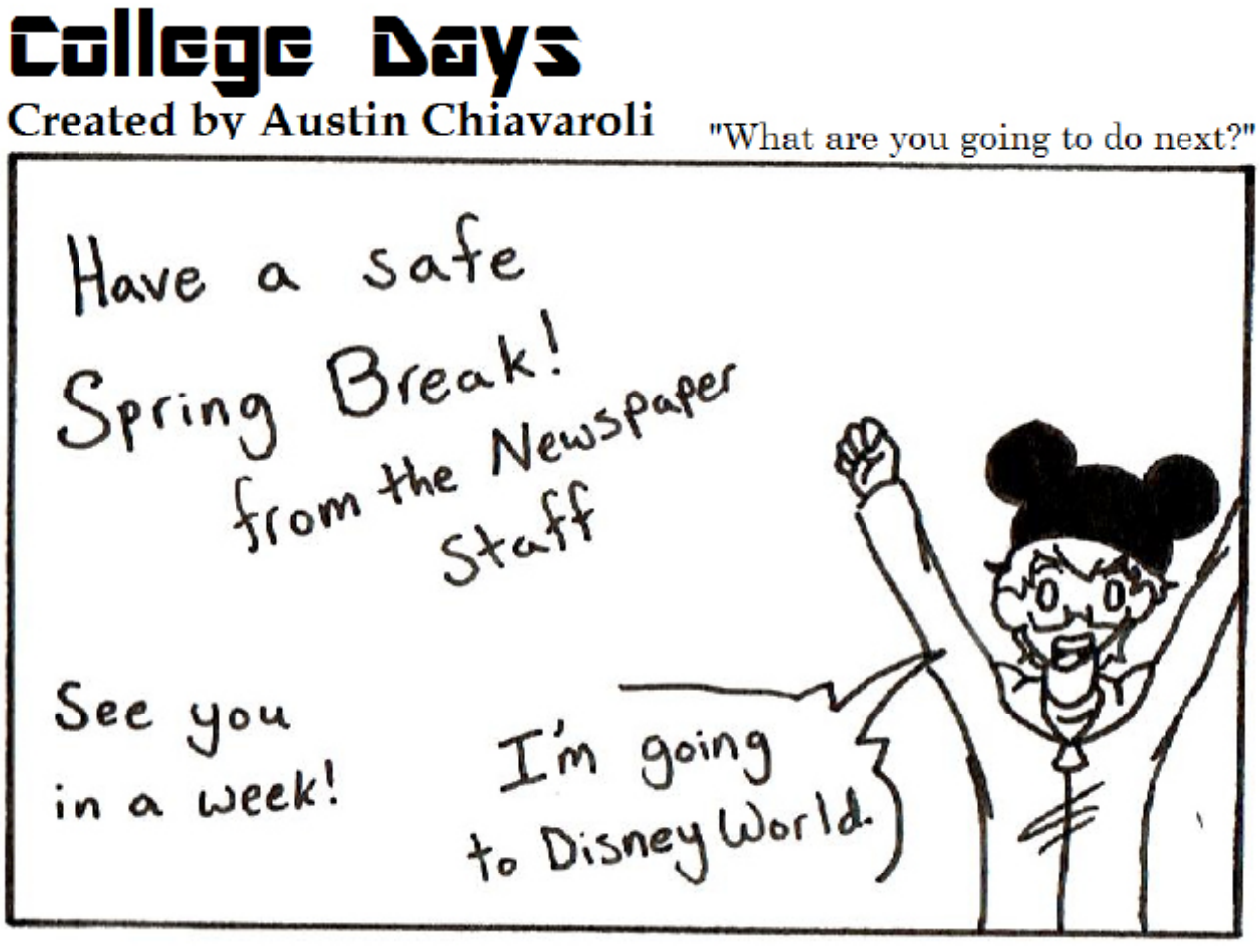
The gameplay functions behind this game are almost an exact duplicate of the "Dynasty Warrior" games, which is understandable seeing as the company that made those games also produced "Berserk: Band of the Hawk." The game is mostly an abundance of enemies thrown at the player; however, the character is powerful enough to slay many of them in a single blow, or at least knock them back. This function feels as the game itself is a hack and slash, meaning the player wields a sword and is pretty much swinging it all over to defeat large amounts of enemies. There are a few times in which players will go up against bosses that are found in the story of the series as well, giving the player even more of a challenge as well as progressing the plot along.

Animated segments for the single player story campaign are fully animated in both a 2D hand drawn and 3D highlighted style. Since both the movie trilogy and recent continuation of the anime series did not do so well being almost all 3D animated, it's good to see some of the 2D hand drawn anime come back to the characters, just like in the 90's.

"Berserk: Band of the Hawk" also has some customization thrown into it. With some bands and other items being received from defeating massive amounts of enemies, certain powers and buffs can be unlocked as well. These buffs are customizable to the many types of customizable trinkets, and the trinkets themselves level up, making the buffs even better in helping destroy enemies faster and obtaining more experience.

There are a few flaws in the game, such as the repetitiveness that increases the more the game is played. While it is fun to hack and slash through loads of bad guys, it gets boring after the thousandth army the player has slaughtered. Another issue is the lack of challenge. The game is very forgiving as it rewards the player with too much experience, has enemies with bosses that way they can easily defeat them by just repeatedly special attacking them, and having enemies that take forever to cause damage. The last problem isn't technically an issue to some individuals. The game has no English dubbed audio, most of the audio is in Japanese; however, English subtitles are optional.

"Berserk: Band of the Hawk," is a fun hack and slash game that can be a great stress reliever and has one of the most exciting and intense stories. While this game definitely isn't for teens or children, its gore and slaughtering rampages bring mature gamers back for more. Hack and slash fans, dynasty warrior fans, players that want to feel like an overpowered knight, then this game is recommended. "Berserk: Band of the Hawk" gets the rating of 3.8/5.


College Days
Created by Austin Chiavaroli
"What are you going to do next?"
Have a safe Spring Break! from the Newspaper Staff
See you in a week!
I'm going to Disney World.

Sports

Lacrosse Teams Continue Season with Confidence

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

Photo from @saintleomlax

The four team captains are optimistically looking forward to their season.

Only a few games into the season, the Saint Leo Men's and Women's Lacrosse teams are looking strong and confident early in their season. Both teams have been successful in recruiting new talent, while keeping most of the key players. In a team sport like Lacrosse, however, the coaches need to establish a team culture of excellence in order to thrive in a very competitive Sunshine State Conference.

The men's team seems to be stronger than ever being ranked at number 15 in the entire NCAA Division II. Beating the number seven ranked team, LIU Post, in the first game of their season put the Lions on the map. Onto the next game they continued their winning streak against Chowan University and Coker College. It was not until Mar. 4 against second ranked Limestone College that the Lions lost their first game of the season.

"The team's success is based off of dedication to each other. This team is different than any other previous teams in a way that we believe in each other and are willing to make each other better every day. We have been focused on preparing for our opponent no matter who it is. Limestone got away from us but the win against LIU post was due to hard work and focus," said Chris Burke, who is a senior with a major in multimedia management.

In their four games of the season, the Lions scored 63 goals, while averaging almost 40 shots on the goal. The two Juniors, Kyle Pauwels and Jake Gilmour, and Sophomore Charlie Kurtenbach are the stand-out scorers for the Lions. Pauwels was able to score 16 goals in the four games, while having a scoring percentage of almost 70.

"Our goals this season are to play each opponent the best we can and let the rest take care of itself. If we do what we know we can we will be in good shape. I'm not worried about the things we can't handle," Burke said.

On the women's side, the team seems to be more motivated than ever after having a rough season last year. Women's Head Coach Lesley Graham recruited new talent to fill the key positions that the team needs to succeed. With ten new freshmen, the team started off their season with a massive 21 to two victory against Newberry College.

"The team has been working very hard in our off season [fall] as well as our preseason this spring. They focus on conditioning, stickwork, and game plan development so that they can be ready to face even the strongest of teams. The goals for the team this season are to win the conference championship. We compete in a very hard conference with Florida Southern being the defending national champion so the team is focused on making it the conference title game," said Graham, who is the first women's lacrosse coach at Saint Leo University.

After losing their second game against number seven ranked Queens College the Lions celebrated their home opener on Mar. 1 with a big win against Wilmington University from Delaware. On the following weekend, the team continued with games against Gannon University and Fort Lewis College, of which they lost the first game, but took the win in the second game.

So far the team has been successful through the great teamwork. The 75 goals that the women's team scored in their five games so far were scored by 13 different players, showing the teams depth. Top scorers have been Freshman Sabrina Sanacore, Lexie Walstad, and Sophomore Leslie Ferguson with eight goals each, while Junior Katherine Larson was able to score ten goals.

"In order to achieve our goals the team needs to stay focused and push themselves and each other to be the best they can be every day. The season can get busy with games every other day combined with practices, lifts, film sessions, study hall, classes, and so on, so it's critical the team keeps themselves focused on the bigger picture of what they want to accomplish—winning the conference title," coach Graham said.

The Lions Pride Newspaper will keep you updated as the men's and women's lacrosse teams will continue their season with ambitious goals.

Upcoming Games for the Week of 3/10/17 - 3/17/17

W Swimming

3/10: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships
3/11: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships

M Swimming

3/10: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships
3/11: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships

M Tennis

3/10: Vs Grand Valley St. 3 PM
3/16: Vs St. Mary's 10:30 AM

W Tennis

3/10: Vs Grand Valley St. 3 PM
3/13: Vs Dallas Baptist 3 PM
3/16: Vs St. Mary's 10:30 AM

Baseball

3/10: @ Tampa 6 PM
3/11: @ Tampa 3 PM
3/11: @ Tampa 6 PM
3/13: Vs Bridgeport 6 PM
3/15: Vs Rollins 3 PM
3/16: Vs Rollins 11 AM
3/17: @ Rollins 1 PM

Softball

3/10: Vs Eckerd 7 PM
3/11: Vs Eckerd 12 PM
3/11: Vs Eckerd 2 PM
3/14: Vs Caldwell 11 AM
3/14: Vs Caldwell 1 PM
3/17: @ Lynn 3 PM

M Lacrosse

3/11: Vs Westminster 2 PM
3/14: Vs Ala.-Huntsville 7 PM
3/16: Vs North Greenville 4 PM

W Lacrosse

3/11: Vs Seton Hill 7 PM
3/15: Vs Belmont Abbey 7 PM

M Golf

3/12: Vs Southeastern Intercollegiate Round 1
3/13: Vs Southeastern Intercollegiate Round 2
3/14: Vs Southeastern Intercollegiate Final

M Track

3/17: Vs Univ. of South Florida Bulls Invitational 4 PM

W Track

3/17: Vs Univ. of South Florida Bulls Invitational 4 PM

Lightning Falls to the Rangers

By Collin Moran
Contributing Writer

Amalie Arena in downtown Tampa was full on Mar. 6 as the Lightning took on the New York Rangers in a heated Eastern Conference Matchup. The stands were lined with hometown jerseys, but proud Rangers fans stayed together in small groups as they cheered on the out of town team. In what was an uneventful game for most of the night, the fans never went quiet during the entire 64 minutes the teams were on the ice.

The goalies on both sides performed admirably, but only Antti Raanta came out the winner. Both teams remained scoreless throughout the three regulation periods, thanks to some incredible saves by both goaltenders.

For most of the game, it was a hostile environment on the ice as there was a fight early in the first period, followed by a few more scuffles broken up by the referees throughout the game. Each team earned its fair share of penalty minutes for some rough play during the action. Tampa compiled 15 penalty minutes, while New York had 19 penalty minutes, as totaled by ESPN. Even with a whopping nine power plays combined, neither team was able to capitalize on the opportunities that were given to them thanks to some great defensive play and limited scoring chances for each side.

The game progressed into three on three overtime as the teams both seemed to have an even amount of momentum to open up the extra time. The Rangers gained momentum by limiting the Lightning to only one shot on net in overtime. After about three and a half minutes, it seemed that the scoreless game was destined for a shootout. With only one minute left in overtime, Rangers Defenseman Ryan McDonagh received a lucky bounce in the defensive zone and passed the puck up to center ice where Forward Mika Zibanejad drove into the Tampa zone on a breakaway, he shot the puck just under the glove of Andrei Vasilevskiy, sealing a win for New York.

The win comes at a crucial time for the Rangers as they try to win a playoff spot in the competitive Metropolitan Division. New York is looking to make the playoffs for the seventh straight season, and even if the team doesn't finish in the Top-3 in their division, the Blueshirts have a wild card spot almost guaranteed, according to ESPN.

Tampa could have really used that extra point by gaining a victory tonight, but they will still be happy with one point. According to ESPN, the Lightning sit just outside the Top-3 in the Atlantic Division, and must keep fighting for every point they can get in order to return to the Stanley Cup Playoffs. After trading away star Goalie Ben Bishop and rugged Forward Brian Boyle last week, the team looks to be in rebuilding mode but still has plenty of talent to fight for a title this season.

Tampa's situation is more do or die than the Rangers is, so stay tuned over the remaining few weeks to see if the Lighting will continue playing when the playoffs start in Apr.